



# **QPRC Operations Sustainability Policy**

<b>Date policy was adopted:</b>	27/03/2019
<b>Resolution number:</b>	088/19
<b>Next Policy review date:</b>	27/03/2022
<b>Reference number:</b>	

# Council Operations Sustainability Policy

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## 1. OUTCOMES:

The aim of this policy is to provide a clear statement of Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council's (QPRC) commitment to reducing the environmental impact of our operations.

## 2. POLICY:

Council acknowledges it has a responsibility and key role to play in promoting and implementing sustainable development (operations and practices).

Council will strengthen, adjust and build internal management frameworks that ensure that the quadruple bottom line is integrated as a core part of Council's strategic and operational management. This will be achieved via effective integrated management plans, specific action plans, standard operating procedures, training, communication, monitoring and reporting. To this end, this policy includes sustainability performance related key performance indicators (KPIs). Council will report on performance against these KPIs annually.

## 3. SCOPE OF THE POLICY:

This policy applies to Council operations only.

## 4. DEFINITIONS:

*ESD* – Ecologically Sustainable Development - development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainability, sustainable development and ESD are used interchangeably.

Sustainable development refers to all our operations and practices and is much broader than the term 'development' used to describe the use of land and work on buildings. Principles underpinning ESD are:

- Precautionary principle
- Inter-generational equity
- Biodiversity and ecological function, and
- An economic framework / valuation which includes environmental factors.

Quadruple bottom line - is a concept which seeks to broaden the focus on the financial bottom line by organisations to include social, environmental and governance responsibilities, it is a measure of a company's degree of social responsibility, its economic and governance values and its environmental impact.

## 5. LEGISLATIVE OBLIGATIONS AND/OR RELEVANT STANDARDS:

Some of the legislation relevant to this policy includes:

### **Local Government Act 1993 No 30**

The following principles apply to decision-making by Councils (subject to any other applicable law).

Section 8(2c) "Council's should consider the long term and cumulative effects of actions on future generation".

Section 8(2d) "Council's should consider the principles of ecological sustainable development".

### **Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016**

Section 1.3 "The purpose of this Act is to maintain a healthy, productive and resilient environment for the greatest well-being of the community, now and into the future, consistent with the principles of ecological sustainable development".

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## **Biosecurity Act 2015**

Section 22 imposes a duty to prevent, eliminate or minimise a biosecurity risk, including the control of pest plants and animals on council land and avoiding the spread of weed material.

## **Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979**

The objects of this Act, which are reflected in Council's environmental planning instruments that council development activities often must comply with, include:

Section 1.3(b) "to facilitate ecologically sustainable development in decision-making about environmental planning and assessment";

Section 1.3(e) "to protect the environment, including the conservation of threatened and other species of native animals and plants, ecological communities and their habitats"; and

Section 1.3(f) "to promote the sustainable management of built and cultural heritage (including Aboriginal cultural heritage)".

## **Pesticides Act 1999**

Part 2 specifies controls on the use of pesticides in accordance with labels and to prevent harm to non-target plants or animals, and material harm to endangered, vulnerable or protected animals.

## **Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997**

The objects of the Act include to protect, restore and enhance the quality of the environment having regard to ecologically sustainable development, such as through compliance with EPA licence requirements for scheduled activities and avoiding activities being carried out in an environmentally unsatisfactory manner that is likely to cause pollution.

## **QPRC Procurement Policy**

Council acknowledges that it has a vital role to play at the local level in promoting sustainable development and can make a contribution towards meeting the global challenges of creating a sustainable society.

## **Water Management Act 2000**

The objects of the Act are to provide for the sustainable and integrated management of water sources, such as the use of water at council's facilities and for irrigating urban landscapes and roadworks.

## **Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001**

Council is expected to contribute to meeting the targets in the NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy.

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## 6. CONTENT:

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council will work to lead the region in sustainable practices. In relation to environmental impact and in relevance to this policy, this will include (but not be limited to): water use, energy use, waste management, fleet management, natural resource management, and parks management.

Council's commitment to applying the principles of sustainability to all decision making, functions and activities is underpinned by the principles adopted by all levels of government in Australia in the 1992 ESD National Strategy. These are:

- decision making processes should effectively integrate both long and short-term economic, environmental, social and equity considerations
- where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation
- the global dimension of environmental impacts of actions and policies should be recognised and considered
- the need to develop a strong, growing and diversified economy which can enhance the capacity for environmental protection should be recognised
- the need to maintain and enhance international competitiveness in an environmentally sound manner should be recognised
- cost effective and flexible policy instruments should be adopted, such as improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms
- decisions and actions should provide for broad community involvement on issues which affect them
- the quadruple bottom line impacts of any new process or procedure shall be investigated so as to prevent any harm

## 7. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

This policy is intended to fill a gap in sustainability KPIs. Hence the policy includes environmental related KPIs. Social KPIs are outlined in QPRC Strategic Service Statement: People. Economic KPIs are outlined in the QPRC Delivery Program 2018 – 2021.

The following environmental key performance indicators are set and will be reported on annually in a sustainability report:

Indicator	KPI	Example Actions
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Survey and assess all of Council's natural assets and add to Council's asset management database by 2024.  Develop road side and other public land management plans and implement priority management actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vegetation survey of all roadsides and other land</li><li>• Develop asset management plan(s) for all natural areas including for example; vegetation mapping, weeds, threatened species information, land capability data.</li></ul>


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<b>Energy Emissions</b>	<p>Reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions from electricity and gas by Council activities by 30% by 2025 when compared to 2012-13 (financial year) baseline.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Queanbeyan sewage treatment plant.</li> <li>• New Council headquarters (replacing 11 currently used sites).</li> <li>• Installation of Solar PV systems LED lighting in buildings and street lighting and other energy efficiency upgrades.</li> <li>• Purchase GreenPower.</li> </ul>
<b>Transport Emissions</b>	<p>Reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions associated with Council's vehicle fleet by 30% by 2025 compared to 2012-13 (financial year) baseline.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouraging cycle/walk/car share/public transport to work.</li> <li>• Purchase of fuel efficient passenger vehicles (&lt;7L/100 combined).</li> <li>• Electric pool vehicles.</li> <li>• Trees 4 Cars.</li> </ul>
<b>Water</b>	<p>Reduce overall water consumption from Council activities by 30% by 2025 compared to 2012 -13 (financial year) baseline.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Queanbeyan sewage treatment plant</li> <li>• New Council headquarters (replacing 11 currently used sites).</li> <li>• Technological solutions such as soil moisture sensors in parks and capturing rainwater from our buildings.</li> <li>• Use native species in Council landscaping.</li> </ul>
<b>Waste</b>	<p>Collate data on waste generation and fate by 2022 so that a baseline could be calculated. Commence this process with a waste audit. Other waste relevant KPI are outlined in the QPRC health safety environment and quality (HSEQ) Waste Management Systems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a waste audit to be incorporated into new waste strategy</li> </ul>

## Council Operations Sustainability Policy

<b>POLICY:-</b>	
<b>Policy No:</b>	
<b>Policy Title:</b>	QPRC Operations Sustainability Policy
<b>Date Policy was adopted by Council:</b>	27/03/2019
<b>Resolution Number:</b>	088/19
<b>Previous Policy Review Date:</b>	N/A
<b>Next Policy Review Date:</b>	March 2022
<b>PROCEDURES/GUIDELINES:-</b>	
<b>Date Procedure/Guideline (if any) was developed:</b>	N/A
<b>RECORDS:-</b>	
<b>Container Reference in TRIM: Policy</b>	
<b>Container Reference in TRIM: Procedure</b>	N/A
<b>Other locations of Policy:</b>	Corporate website
<b>Other locations of Procedures/Guidelines:</b>	Records Management System
<b>DELEGATION (if any):-</b>	
	Nil
<b>RESPONSIBILITY:-</b>	
<b>Draft Policy developed by:</b>	Shlomi Bonet & Cameron Pensini
<b>Committees (if any) consulted in the development of the Draft Policy:</b>	Smarter Action Squad – Council’s Sustainability Working Group Key Council staff involved in building design and management and Sustainability. Environmental Advisory Committee Executive team
<b>Responsibility for Implementation:</b>	All employees and Councillors
<b>Responsibility for Review of Policy:</b>	Portfolio General Manager Natural and Built Character

<b>INTEGRATED PLANNING FRAMEWORK:</b>	
<b>Strategic Direction (CSP):</b>	Strategic Priority 3
<b>Service:</b>	Organisational Wide
<b>Program:</b>	Operational Plan

<b>Senior Authorising Officer</b>	<b>Position</b> Chief Executive Officer	<b>Signature/Date</b>  27 March 2019
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ACTION	COUNCIL MEETING DATE	RESOLUTION NUMBER	REPORT ITEM NUMBER
<b>NEW/RECONFIRMED/ AMENDED</b>			

DATE REVIEWED	REVIEWER POSITION	REVIEWER NAME